

her accomplishments and wish her success as she continues on her quest for knowledge.

CONGRATULATING MR. TOM
DAVENPORT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Tom Davenport of Lake Dallas, Texas for his 18 years of service as Superintendent of Schools for the Lake Dallas Independent School District.

During his tenure, the school district has more than doubled in size and has been in a continuous building program since 1995. In his 38 years of teaching and school administration, his focus has always been on providing top-quality education for his students.

In addition to his passion for education, Tom has deeply impressed me by his forward thinking in other areas. A few years ago, Tom made the decision to install geothermal heating and cooling in Lake Dallas ISD schools. He recognized that, despite higher up-front capital costs, the District would save money over time, as well as help clean the environment by using a renewable source.

Tom is very active in various professional organizations on both the state and national level. He is a member of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, having served as President of the Federal Properties Section for two years. On the state level, he has served as treasurer for the Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools since 1999. He is also a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators and has served as a mentor superintendent for four newly hired superintendents across the state.

In the past he has served as Commissioner of Education Advisory Committee and served as Chair of the Education Service Center, Region XI TASA Study Group. He is a Senatorial District Representative for the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools. Other professional organizations to which he belongs include, Phi Delta Kappa, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, Texas Association of Community Schools, and the Equity Center.

Locally he is a member of the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce and served as vice-president for six years. He was selected as the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2005. He is also a member of the Lake Cities Lions Club and is an active member of Lake Shore Baptist Church in Lake Dallas.

Tom plans to reside in the Lake Cities area after retirement with his wife Carolyn.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Tom Davenport for years of hard work and dedication. I am pleased to join his friends, family, and colleagues in congratulating him on his retirement after years of devoted service.

TRIBUTE TO THE DENVER GAY
MEN'S CHORUS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker. I rise to commend the exceptional leadership and invaluable contributions of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. It is fitting that we recognize this chorus for its extraordinary service and its enduring commitment to creative and performance excellence as well as the enrichment of the artistic and cultural experience in the 1st congressional district and throughout Colorado.

Since its inception, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus has proven to be a powerful force in promoting both artistic excellence and civic values. Founded in 1982, the chorus was the first openly gay organization in Denver. The group is a talented choral ensemble dedicated to musical excellence and it has been a beacon of strength and support for the gay and lesbian community. Touching ears and hearts alike, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, with its unique ability to convey acceptance and pride, continue to be in high demand with diverse audiences. Truly, the chorus has established itself as a major cultural presence that has served to expand the appreciation of choral music and its enduring value as a means of poignant artistic expression.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has openly declared that it exists to build community through music. Members have joined together for the explicit purpose of providing educational, cultural and social enrichment for themselves and their audiences. It is an organization of gay people and their friends that is actively engaged in making a positive contribution to the entire community.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has amassed a distinguished record of service to our State and our Nation. It has participated in the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festivals in six cities—Denver, Montreal, New York, San Jose, Seattle, and Tampa—representing Denver and Colorado as cultural ambassadors to the world. It has participated in exchange concerts with gay men's choruses in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Portland, Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

In 1990, Rich Geraghty of Denver was appointed administrative director of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Board of Directors. Prior to locating in Washington, DC, the first national offices of the GALA Choruses were in Denver. In 1992, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus welcomed over 3,500 delegates and hosted 65 choruses at the GALA Choruses Festival IV held at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. "Of Rage and Remembrance," by featured composer John Corigliano, was performed at the festival's special AIDS Memorial Concert during the peak of AIDS deaths nationwide.

Over the past 25 years, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus has performed over 130 different concert programs featuring over 1,300 compositions, arrangements, commissioned works, and medleys. It comes as no surprise that the chorus was honored with the Denver

Mayor's A ward for Excellence in the Arts for 1992.

As a choir member at Montview Presbyterian Church, I have an appreciation of choral music's power and its capacity to inspire both singers and audiences alike. It has been noted that "singing is the bridge between heaven and earth; between ages and cultures. It has the power to move hearts and to touch us in ways that truly transcend mundane experience." Today, we celebrate the transforming power of choral music. We celebrate the invaluable contributions of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus as it continues to promote artistic excellence, pride and community. Choral music touches all of us and we are indeed fortunate to have a cultural asset of such magnitude. Please join me in commending the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, a distinguished choral ensemble. It is the leadership and dedication which members of this chorus exhibit on a daily basis that continually enhance our lives and build a better future for all of our people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED
STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT
CHRISTOPHER M. MOORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of SSG Christopher M. Moore, who lost his life defending our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Christopher M. Moore attended Alpaugh High School in Alpaugh, CA. He excelled in academics and graduated early. After Christopher graduated from high school he joined the United States Army. He was so proud to serve in the military; he enlisted for a second term. Christopher Moore was the first Alpaugh High School graduate to die in combat.

While serving with the 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, Christopher performed all of his active duties with great satisfaction. Tragically, on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, 2007, the vehicle in which Christopher traveled was hit by an improvised explosive device. Christopher and five other soldiers were killed in the incident.

Christopher is survived by his mother, Martha Moore, two sisters, and one brother. Also surviving are his three young daughters and numerous friends.

It is my belief that Michael's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and determination to fight for our Nation will forever live in the minds and hearts of his family and Americans across the country. SSG Christopher M. Moore's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us and for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM
KOSSORIS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, Southeastern Wisconsin lost a truly dedicated teacher last week—Tom Kossoris, who taught at Mukwonago High School over the past three decades. He passed away after a lengthy battle with illness brought on by a brain tumor. I would like to take a moment to honor his memory and reflect on the lessons he passed along to his students and others who knew him.

Tom taught history, political science and economics. He demanded a lot from his students—setting high standards that challenged them to excel. In an account that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, his fellow teacher, Bruce Lammers put it well, saying: “Tom taught me to have students meet your expectations. Challenge the kids academically, and the kids rise to your standards.” Tom combined this toughness with a dry sense of humor and an unfailing commitment to his students’ education.

Every year, Tom brought students to Washington to enhance and expand on what they had learned—showing them their government in action, as well as the site of so many watersheds and debates over the course of our nation’s history. I could count on hearing from Tom, who would ask for assistance with getting tours of the Capitol or other opportunities to make his students’ trip memorable. He held himself to the same high standards he expected of others—working tirelessly to make sure students got the most out of their experience in Washington.

Over the years he retained a love of teaching, as well as an intellectual energy and enthusiasm that he passed on to others. On top of his other teaching duties, Tom became a driver’s education instructor, giving lessons before school on weekdays and on Saturdays. His sharp mind, his wit, and his determination to bring out the best in students will be greatly missed by the whole community.

HONORING CYNTHIA SIEGEL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for over 30 years of educational service to students in Virginia, New York, and Germany.

Originally from Long Island, Mrs. Siegel began her career in education in New York, teaching for six years on the high school level and two years for an education program at CitiBank. Mrs. Siegel’s calling as a teacher didn’t leave her because of a geographic location. As the spouse of an Army officer, she found herself in Germany and confronted with a base that lacked a teacher for the military school there. She gladly stepped up and filled that need. Upon her return to the U.S., Mrs. Siegel worked for six years at the Washington Business School of Northern Virginia. She

joined Fairfax County Public Schools in 1989, piloting the Technology Tools class for Lanier Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia. Mrs. Siegel has been a dedicated educator at Lanier for the past 21 years.

Teaching students for over three decades and on two continents, she has demonstrated her unequivocal passion for education. Over her career, Mrs. Siegel found opportunities to actively serve in different educational systems in Virginia, New York and Europe. A proud mother and grandmother, Mrs. Siegel will continue her service to young people during her retirement. She has fondly exclaimed, “my role as an educator will remain, only my title will officially shift from Mrs. Siegel to grandma.”

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for her enduring service as a teacher in Fairfax County and abroad. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Cynthia Siegel for her efforts and wishing her many happy years in retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2317, LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007 AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2316, HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Honest Leadership Open Government Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI for taking this important step in changing the way business is done in Washington.

H.R. 2316 will bring real transparency to lobbyists’ activities in order to break the corrupting influence that has been present over the last decade in Congress. This bill requires disclosure of lobbyists’ contributions to members, doubles the frequency of lobbyists’ reporting, and establishes a searchable public database of this disclosure information. It also increases criminal and civil penalties for those who violate the Lobby Disclosure Act and bans the K street project.

The Honest Leadership Open Government Act includes new requirements for Members of Congress, including required disclosure of job negotiations for post-Congressional employment, and establishes a public database for Members’ travel and financial disclosure information.

This legislation is the second step in fulfilling the Democrats’ promise to clean up Washington. In the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress we passed new House Rules imposing the toughest ethics standards ever. These rules banned gifts, meals and trips paid for by lobbyists. The House has also voted to deny pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of corruption.

The House of Representatives is the People’s House. In order to ensure that we are truly responsive to and representative of the people, it is critical that lobbyists’ do not have undue access to Members or influence over

the legislative process. H.R. 2316 shines a bright light on lobbyists’ activities in order to end the illegal practices that waste taxpayer dollars and bring disgrace to this institution.

Under Democratic leadership, this Congress is moving America in a New Direction. Our priorities put the interests of American families ahead of special interests. I am proud to support this legislation today and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 5th, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to vote on rollcalls Nos. 426–430.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following:

Rollcall No. 426, H. Res. 327—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 427, H. Res. 422—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 428, H. Res. 430—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 429, H. Res. 451—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 430, H. Res. 452—“aye.”

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
PATRICK HENRY BRADY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Major General Patrick H. Brady for his relentless and selfless service to this country. Major General Brady should be remembered for his heroic display while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, where he went above and beyond his call of duty flying multiple missions into hostile territory to evacuate severely wounded soldiers as an air ambulance pilot. It is estimated that Major General Brady may have evacuated more wounded from the battlefield than anyone in American history, over 5,000.

Major General Brady’s gallantry and heroism has been well documented and he is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation’s second highest award; two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished Flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart; 53 Air Medals, one for valor; and the Medal of Honor, the military’s highest decoration. While Major General Patrick Brady had a distinguished and honorable military career, I speak today not only to honor those achievements and his 34-year military career, but to recognize his service to our country while not wearing the uniform.

Soon Major General Brady will step down as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Flag Alliance, after more than a decade of phenomenal service. Major General Brady’s outstanding ability enabled him to organize and motivate nearly 150 organizations whose sole focus is on passing a Constitutional amendment that would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. He has testified before Congress and worked